



2014 Trapping Regulations to Avoid Lynx Capture

Regulations

- **Foothold traps** in WMDs 1-6 and 8-11 set on dry ground can NOT have an inside jaw spread greater than **5 $\frac{3}{8}$ inches** and must have at least one swivel.
- **Cage-type live traps** in WMDs 1-6 and 8-11 with dimensions of 13 X 13 inches or greater are prohibited.
- **Killer-type (Conibear) traps*** (with an inside jaw spread up to 8 inches) when set on land in WMDs 1-11 and 14, 18 and 19 must be;
 - Set at least 4 feet above ground or snow level and 4 feet away from any bank. The pole or tree that the trap is affixed to must be:
 - 1) No greater than 4 inches wide at 4 feet above the ground and
 - 2) At an angle of 45° or greater to the ground the entire distance from the ground to the trap.
 - 3) The area within 4 feet of the trap in all directions must be
 - free of objects greater than 4 inches wide and
 - free of trees or poles slanted less than 45° between the ground & the height of the trap.
 - 4) If using a pole, the pole must be a natural section of tree which has not been planed or sawed to create a flat surface.

*Some exceptions are made for killer-type traps used in blind sets & set under overhanging banks (see IFW law book).

- **Killer-type traps** (with a jaw spread ≤ 7.5 inches, ~ #220 or smaller) in WMDs 7, 14, 18 and 19 can be set on the ground with a lynx exclusion device; see page 41 of IFW's law book for more information.

Reporting Requirements:

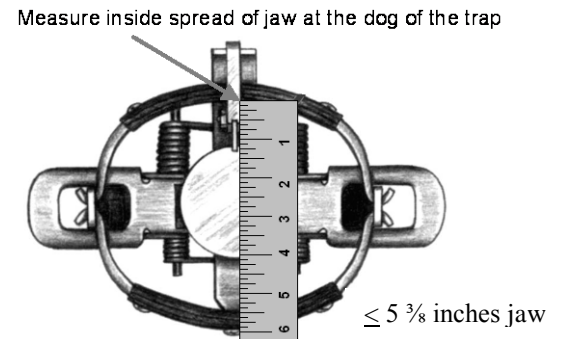
Trappers are required to report the capture of lynx to a Game Warden or Department biologist as soon as possible and prior to removing the animal from the trap, unless a Department official cannot be reached in time to prevent injury to the lynx. Any lynx released under this provision must be reported to the Department within 24 hours from the time it was discovered. **Report Lynx Captures to (207) 592-4734** (24 hours a day / 7 days a week).

In remote areas, phones are available at NMW checkpoints, custom gates, sporting camps, and logging operations.

Bait Regulations:

- During the early canine and muskrat trapping seasons, it is illegal to set a trap using exposed bait or visual attractor.

During the regular trapping season, traps cannot be set within 50 yards of bait that is visible from above.



IF YOU CATCH A LYNX OR EAGLE

Trappers catching either a lynx or eagle are required to notify the Department as soon as possible. If you accidentally trap a lynx or eagle during the trapping season, please notify a biologist or game warden immediately, before releasing the animal. **For quickest response, phone 207-941-4466 during regular office hours (8 AM - 5 PM Monday-Friday), or 207-592-4734 outside of business hours. You may also contact the nearest regional office at one of the numbers listed in the back of this booklet.**

Department personnel are available to help release lynx or eagles caught in traps. Lynx and eagles are protected by federal and state laws, and cannot be kept if caught in a trap. An eagle caught in a trap will likely require rehabilitation. An eagle caught in a trap by one of its legs may show little if any signs of injury at the time of capture. What may appear to be a very minor bruise at the time of capture can quickly develop into a fatal injury. This is because of the unique way that blood circulates in an eagle's leg. A bruise may result in a loss of blood flow in the leg; this in turn can lead to an infection that causes the death of the bird. **Please contact MDIFW as soon as possible if you catch an eagle in a trap.** Ideally, an eagle should spend as little time in a trap as possible. Safely releasing an eagle from a trap will require covering the eyes or head of the animal, controlling the talons (e.g., tether the feet together), and putting the released eagle in a holding container that has adequate ventilation and that restricts wing movement (e.g., burlap bag). Once the eagle is secure it can be held for a biologist or warden or be transported to the nearest MDIFW regional office.

Remember that **IFW regulations require all incidentally trapped lynx be reported** to either a biologist or warden. In most circumstances a biologist will tranquilize, examine, and release the animal. However, there may be circumstances where it is impossible for a biologist to get to the trap site within a reasonable amount of time. In those incidences or when a lynx is in immediate danger from being left in a trap, trappers are permitted to release the lynx. However, the incidental capture of a lynx must be reported to a MDIFW warden or biologist within 24 hours. If you release a lynx, please note the extent of any injuries the lynx may have received in the trap. For information regarding how to safely release a lynx from a trap, please refer to information on the Department website (http://www.maine.gov/ifw/wildlife/management/lynx_avoid.htm) or to the booklet "How to Avoid the Incidental Take of Lynx While Trapping or Hunting Bobcats and other Furbearers" which was distributed to all trappers a couple of years ago. If you would like more information on lynx biology or the Department's lynx research efforts, please contact Jennifer Vashon or Wally Jakubas or at 941-4466.

If you catch a cat and are uncertain whether it is a bobcat or a lynx, please contact a wildlife biologist or warden before killing the animal. It is better to err on the side of caution than to accidentally kill a lynx.

Lynx vs. Bobcat Know the Difference

The most notable difference between a lynx and a bobcat is paw size. Lynx paws are about twice the size of bobcat paws. Lynx can also be distinguished from bobcats by the tip of their tail, which is completely black (bobcat tail tips are black on the upper side [dorsal side] and white underneath). Lynx have more prominent ear tufts, paler coloration, less spotting, and longer legs than a bobcat. Please know the difference between bobcat and lynx (Table 1; Figure 2).

If you trap a bobcat that looks like a cross between a lynx and a bobcat, we would like to know about it. We have recovered several lynx-bobcat hybrids in north central Maine and are interesting in documenting other specimens. Remember, if you are uncertain whether you have trapped a lynx or a bobcat please call a biologist or warden before dispatching the animal. If you have already dispatched the animal, and think it has unusual characteristics for a bobcat, we are still interested in seeing it. We have documented lynx - bobcat hybrids in Maine.

Table 1. Track descriptions for bobcat and lynx.

Species	General Shape	Walking Stride	Print Size (Front Foot)	Track Pattern
Bobcat	General round appearance. Heel points in slightly different direction than toes. No nail marks, but if present, attached to toe marks.	6" to 14"	Length - 1 $\frac{7}{8}$ " to 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " Width - 1 $\frac{7}{8}$ " to 2 $\frac{5}{8}$ "	Direct or double register walking pattern. Trail pattern zigzags right-left-right-left.
Lynx	Same as bobcat but tracks show a lot more hair. Smaller pads than a mountain lion.	11" to 18"	Length - 3 $\frac{1}{4}$ " to 3 $\frac{3}{4}$ " Width - 3" to 3 $\frac{3}{8}$ " Outline of hair impression Length - 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ " to 5 $\frac{3}{8}$ " Width - 3 $\frac{3}{8}$ " to 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	Same as bobcat

Lynx Exclusion Device Rule

In Wildlife Management Districts 7, 14, 18, and 19 killer-type traps with a jaw spread not to exceed 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches may be used on the ground level if the trap is placed within a lynx exclusion device (Fig. 1). The trap jaws must be completely within the device; the trap springs can be outside of the device. The lynx exclusion device must not have an opening greater than 6 inches by 8 inches, the set trap within the device must be a minimum of 18 inches from the closest edge of the opening to the trap (intended for 160 and 220 Conibear traps) or; if the device has a 4 inches by 4 inches or less opening, the trap must be a minimum of 12 inches from the closest edge of the opening to the trap (intended for 120 Conibear traps). The opening must be on the side or on top of the device, not directly in front of the trap. The back of the device must be secured to withstand heavy pulling; if using wire mesh with a wood box, the wire mesh must wrap around two opposite sides of the box and be secured. There must be at least 1 attachment point for each side of the device where a joint or panels come together. The exclusion device can be constructed of wood, or wire mesh that does not exceed 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ by 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches, or 1 inch by 2 inches openings, (side to side). The wire mesh has to be 16 gauge or less (wire diameter of 0.05 or greater). The opening slot in the exclusion device that allows the trap springs to extend outside the device can be no more than 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide and a height of no more than 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The trap must be anchored outside of the exclusion device. Bait must not be visible from above.

Figure 1. An example of a lynx exclusion device constructed according to regulations.

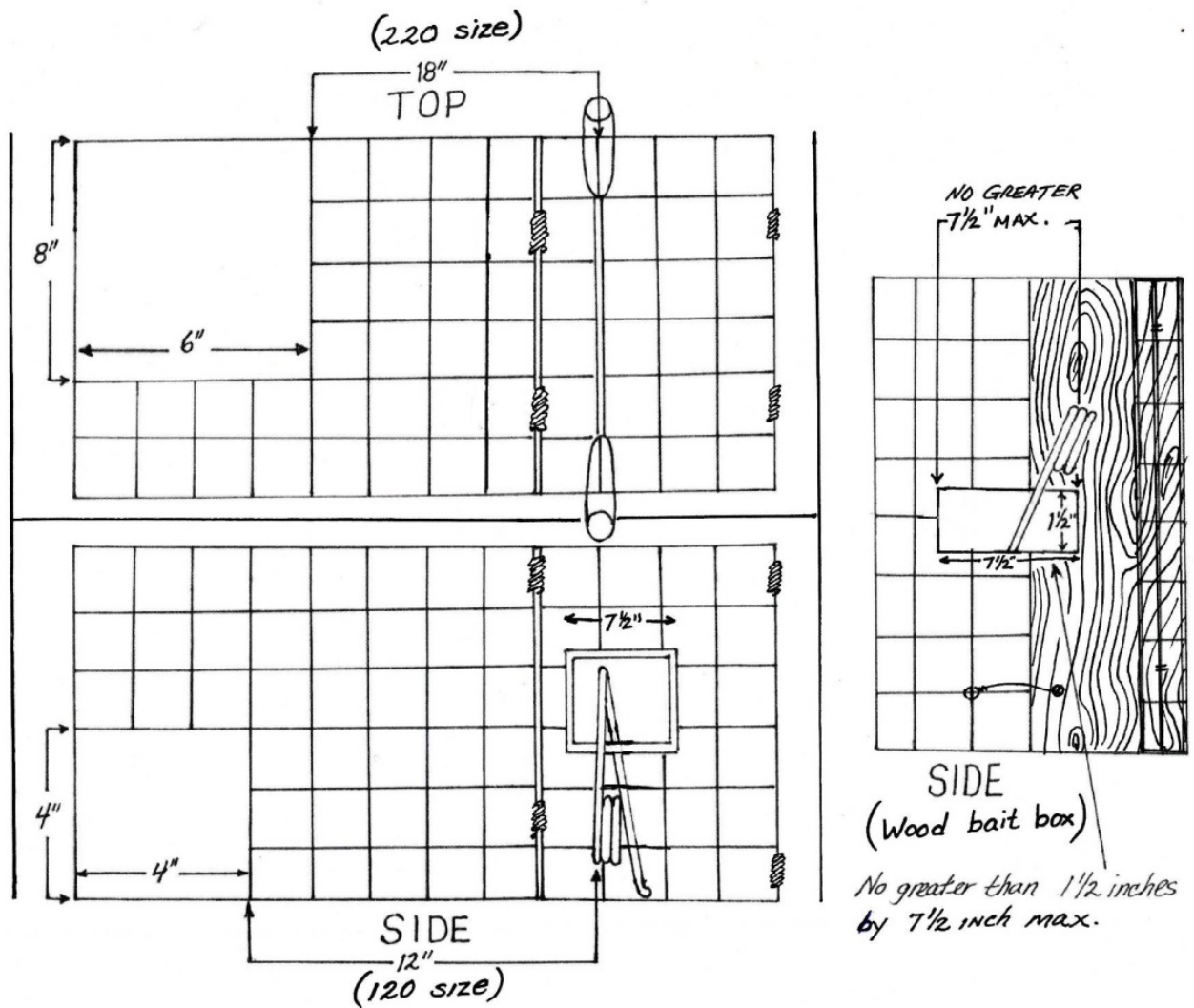
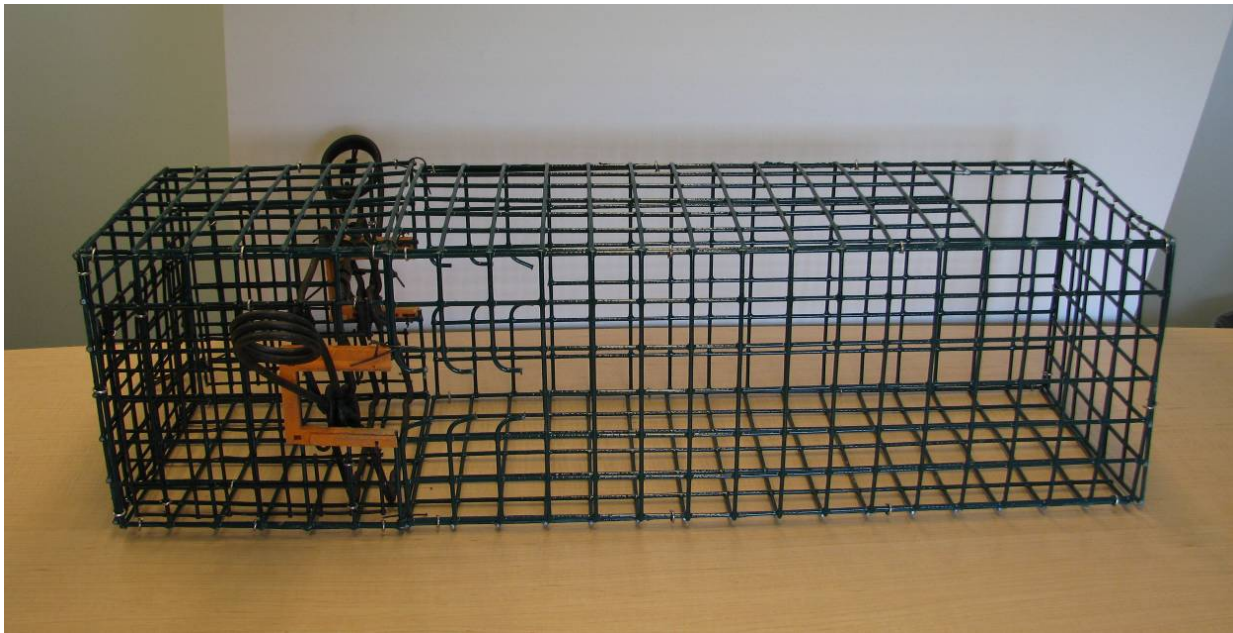
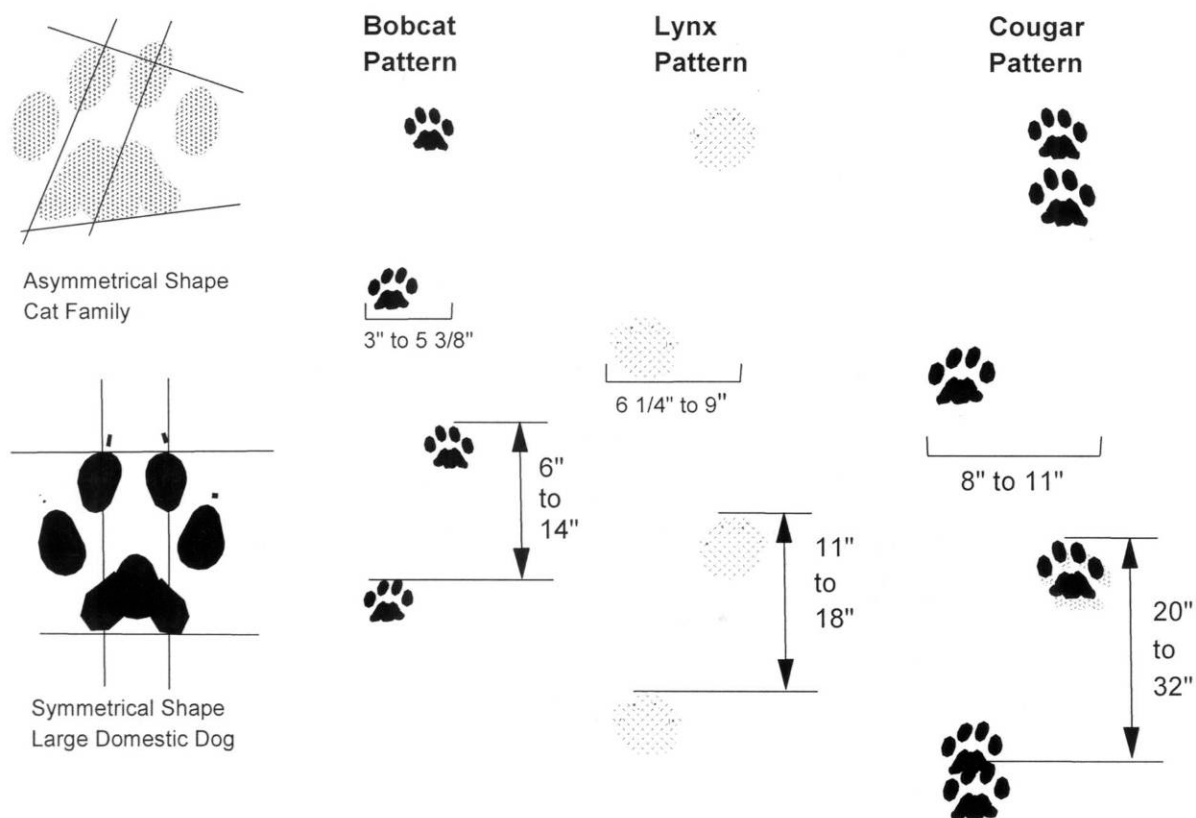


Figure 2. Comparisons of canine and cat tracks, and bobcat, lynx, and cougar tracks. Illustrations follow those in Rezendes (1992) and Elbroch (2003).



LYNX PRINT, ACTUAL SIZE



COUGAR PRINT, ACTUAL SIZE